RECEIPT#

AMOUNT

-01459-CMR Document 1 Filed 03/17/20 Page 1 of 14

CWIL COVER SHEET 20-0V-1459 CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local folles of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the numbers of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

ourpose of initiating the civil do	cket sneet. {SEE INSTRUCT	HONS ON NEXT PAGE O	r inis ro	TOM.)		$\Omega \Omega$	4 A B		
(a) PLAINTIFFS Streets Kinney, Individual	ly and on behalf of all	others similarly situ	uated	DEFENDANT Capital Accounts	S , LLC and .	John Does 1-25) A	
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Delaware (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINT FF CASES)				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.					
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A Antranig Garibian, Esq. G 1800 JFK Blvd, Suite 300 215-326-9179 ag@garib	Baribian Law Offices,-F I, Philadelphia, PA 19'	PC		Attorneys (If Known	n)				
II. BASIS OF JURIŞDI	CTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)		TIZENSHIP OF		AL PARTIES	Place an "X" in C and One Box fo		
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	M 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government)	Not a Party)			PTF DEF	Incorporated or Pri of Business In T	ncipal Place	PTF	DEF
2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh.	ip of Parties in Item III)	Citiz	en of Another State	G 2 G 2	Incorporated and P of Business In A		□ 5	5
				en or Subject of a reign Country		Foreign Nation		A	□ 6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT			mark to R	DREETURE/PENALTY		k here for: Nature o	f Suit Code De: OTHER		
CONTRACT 110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY □ 310 Airplane □ 315 Airplane Product Liability □ 320 Assault, Libel &	Other:	RTY	DREITURE/PENALTY 25 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 88: 26 Other LABOR 10 Fair Labor Standards Act 20 Labor/Management Relations 40 Railway Labor Act 51 Family and Medical Leave Act 90 Other Labor Litigation 91 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION 62 Naturalization Applicat 65 Other Immigration Actions	1 422 April 423 Wit 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 2	peal 28 USC 158 indrawal USC 157 ERTY RIGHTS pyrights ent ent - Abbreviated w Drug Application demark L SECURITY A (1395ff) ck Lung (923) WC/DIWW (405(g)) D Title XVI	375 False Cla 376 Qui Tam 3729(a)) 400 State Ret 410 Antitrust 430 Banks an 450 Commer 460 Deportat 470 Racketee Corrupt (aims Act a (31 USC) apportionmat to Banking ce tion rer Influence Organizatic er Credit at TV ess/Commod ge atutory Act ural Acts mental Matta of Informa- tion tiew or App Decision tionality of	ed and ons Sities/ tions ters ation cedure
	Cite the U.S. Civil St. Fair Debt Collect Brief description of c Improper collecti	Appellate Court atute under which you a ion Practices Act - ause: on efforts regarding IS A CLASS ACTIO	Red are filing (15 USC g false, I	pened Ano (spec Do not cite jurisdictional s Sect. 1692 et seq	statutes unless	- Million Million	if demanded in	Multidist Litigation Direct Fil complair	n - le
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCK	ET NUMBER	IAR 17	202	0
DATE 03/17/2020 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		SIGNATURE OF AT	TORNEY	OF RECORD	MANNIMATOR .				
RECEIPT# Al	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE	:	MAG. JUI	OGE		

JUDGE

APPLYING IFP

Case 2:20 cv-01459-CMR Document 1 Filed 03/17/20 Page 2 of 14 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM

plaintiff a indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

Address of Plaintiff:	1426 Huddell Avenue, Ogden, PA 19061							
Address of Defendant:	2120 Crestmoor Rd, Nashville, TN 37215							
Address of Defendant: See Plaintiff address Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction:								
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:								
	Judge: Date Terminated:							
Civil cases are deemed related when Yes is answered to								
Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year Yes No V previously terminated action in this court?								
Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit Yes No V pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?								
Does this case involve the validity or infringement numbered case pending or within one year previous.	ously terminated action of this court?							
case filed by the same individual?								
ertify that, to my knowledge, the within case is our related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in second above. O3/17/2020 Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)								
CIVIL: (Place a √in one category only)	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:							
A. Federal Question Cases: 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and A. 2. FELA 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury 4. Antitrust 5. Patent 6. Labor-Management Relations 7. Civil Rights 8. Habeas Corpus 9. Securities Act(s) Cases 10. Social Security Review Cases All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify): Fair debt collection	All Other Contracts 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts 2. Airplane Personal Injury 3. Assault, Defamation 4. Marine Personal Injury 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify): 7. Products Liability 8. Products Liability – Asbestos 9. All other Diversity Cases (Please specify): ———————————————————————————————————							
	ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION							
	of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.)							
*	counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify:							
Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, § 3(c) (2 exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of	2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case of interest and costs:							
Relief other than monetary damages is sou	ght. MAR 17 2020							
DATE:	Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)							

NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

(Civ. 660) 10/02

Julio

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Streets Kinney, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

C.A. No.

20

1450

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

-V.-

Capital Accounts, LLC and John Does 1-25.

Defendant(s).

Plaintiff Streets Kinney (hereinafter, "Plaintiff"), brings this Class Action Complaint by and through his attorneys, Garibian Law Offices, P.C. against Defendant Capital Accounts LLC (hereinafter "Defendant"), individually and on behalf of a class of all others similarly situated, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, based upon information and belief of Plaintiff's counsel, except for allegations specifically pertaining to Plaintiff, which are based upon Plaintiff's personal knowledge.

<u>INTRODUCTION</u>

1. Congress enacted the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (hereinafter "the FDCPA") in 1977 in response to the "abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt collectors." 15 U.S.C. §1692(a). At that time, Congress was concerned that "abusive debt collection practices contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to material instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy." *Id.* Congress concluded that "existing laws…[we]re inadequate to protect consumers," and that "the effective

collection of debts" does not require "misrepresentation or other abusive debt collection practices." 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692(b) & (c).

2. Congress explained that the purpose of the FDCPA was not only to eliminate abusive debt collection practices, but also to "insure that those debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged." 15 U.S.C § 1692(e). "After determining that the existing consumer protection laws were inadequate." 15 U.S.C. § 1692(b), Congress gave consumers a private cause of action against debt collectors who fail to comply with the FDCPA. 15 U.S.C. § 1692k.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 3. The Court has jurisdiction over this class action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et. seq. The Court has pendent jurisdiction over any state law claims in this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).
- 4. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2), as this is where a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

- 5. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of a class of Pennsylvania consumers under §1692 et seq. of Title 15 of the United States Code, commonly referred to as the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act ("FDCPA"), and
 - 6. Plaintiff is seeking damages and declaratory relief.

PARTIES

- 7. Plaintiff is a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, County of Delaware, 1317 Powell Road, Chester, PA 19015.
- 8. Defendant is a "debt collector" as the phrase is defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692(a)(6) and used in the FDCPA and can be served upon its registered agent, Incorp Services, Inc., at 919 North Market Street, Suite 950, Wilmington, DE 19801.
- 9. Upon information and belief, Defendant is a company that uses the mail, telephone, and facsimile and regularly engages in business the principal purpose of which is to attempt to collect debts alleged to be due another.
- 10. John Does 1-25, are fictitious names of individuals and businesses alleged for the purpose of substituting names of defendants whose identities will be disclosed in discovery and should be made parties to this action.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

- 11. Plaintiff brings this claim on behalf of the following case, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and 23(b)(3).
 - 12. The Class consists of:
 - a. all individuals with addresses in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania;
 - b. to whom Defendant sent an initial collection letter attempting to collect a consumer debt;
 - c. that included deceptive and misleading statements regarding the reporting of payments to credit bureaus;
 - d. which letter was sent on or after a date one (1) year prior to the filing of this action and on or before a date twenty-one (21) days after the filing of this action.

- 13. The identities of all class members are readily ascertainable from the records of Defendants and those companies and entities on whose behalf they attempt to collect and/or have purchased debts.
- 14. Excluded from the Plaintiff Class are the Defendants and all officer, members, partners, managers, directors and employees of the Defendants and their respective immediate families, and legal counsel for all parties to this action, and all members of their immediate families.
- 15. There are questions of law and fact common to the Plaintiff Class, which common issues predominate over any issues involving only individual class members. The principal issue is whether the Defendant's written communications to consumers, in the forms attached as Exhibit A, violate 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e.
- 16. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the class members, as all are based upon the same facts and legal theories. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Plaintiff Class defined in this complaint. Plaintiff has retained counsel with experience in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions, and neither Plaintiff nor his attorneys have any interests, which might cause them not to vigorously pursue this action.
- 17. This action has been brought, and may properly be maintained, as a class action pursuant to the provisions of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure because there is a well-defined community interest in the litigation:
 - a. <u>Numerosity:</u> Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that the Plaintiff Class defined above is so numerous that joinder of all members would be impractical.
 - b. <u>Common Questions Predominate:</u> Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Plaintiff Class and those questions predominate over any

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- questions or issues involving only individual class members. The principal issue is whether the Defendant's written communications to consumers, in the forms attached as Exhibit A violate 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e.
- c. <u>Typicality:</u> Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the class members.

 Plaintiff and all members of the Plaintiff Class have claims arising out of the Defendant's common uniform course of conduct complained of herein.
- d. Adequacy: Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class members insofar as Plaintiff has no interests that are adverse to the absent class members. Plaintiff is committed to vigorously litigating this matter. Plaintiff has also retained counsel experienced in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions. Neither Plaintiff nor his counsel have any interests which might cause them not to vigorously pursue the instant class action lawsuit.
- e. <u>Superiority:</u> A class action is superior to the other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy because individual joinder of all members would be impracticable. Class action treatment will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum efficiently and without unnecessary duplication of effort and expense that individual actions would engender.
- 18. Certification of a class under Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure is also appropriate in that the questions of law and fact common to members of the Plaintiff Class predominate over any questions affecting an individual member, and a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.

19. Depending on the outcome of further investigation and discovery, Plaintiff may, at the time of class certification motion, seek to certify a class(es) only as to particular issues pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(4).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 20. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered above herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 21. Some time prior to March 20, 2019, an obligation was allegedly incurred by Plaintiff to Jay Wardius DDS.
- 22. The alleged obligation to Jay Wardius DDS arose out of a transaction in which involved the transaction of money, property, insurance or services primarily for personal, family or household purposes.
- 23. The alleged obligation to Jay Wardius DDS is a "debt" as defined by 15 U.S.C.§ 1692a(5).
 - 24. Jay Wardius DDS is a "creditor" as defined by 15 U.S.C.§ 1692a(4).
- 25. Defendant, a debt collector, contracted with Jay Wardius DDS to collect the alleged debt.
- 26. Defendant collects and attempt to collect debts incurred or alleged to have been incurred for personal, family or household purposes on behalf of creditors using the United States Postal Services, telephone and internet.

Violation - March 20, 2019 Collection Letter

27. On or about March 20, 2019, Defendant sent Plaintiff an initial contact notice (the "Letter") regarding the alleged debt owed. A true and accurate copy of the Letter is attached as Exhibit A.

- 28. The Letter states a balance of \$979.60 and offers a settlement of \$783.68 to stasify the debt in full.
 - 29. The Letter further states:
 - "By clearing up this delinquent obligation, we will request that the 3 national credit bureaus update the tradeline associated with your account to reflect this payment activity."
 - 30. The Letter is misleading and deceptive by not explaining clearly what Defendant will report to the credit bureaus.
 - 31. The Letter is not clear as to whether merely the payment will be reported to the credit bureaus, as the simple language states, or whether the entire account will be reported to the credit bureau as paid in full.
 - 32. The language is misleading to the consumer and confusing as to whether the account in question would be reported as fully settled and removed from his credit report or whether merely a payment would be reflected on his credit report.
 - 33. As a result of Defendant's deceptive, misleading and unfair debt collection practices, Plaintiff has been damaged.

COUNT I

VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT 15 U.S.C. §1692e et seq.

- 34. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs above herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 35. Defendant's debt collection efforts attempted and/or directed towards Plaintiff violated various provisions of the FDCPA, including but not limited to 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.
- 36. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692e, a debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt.

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- 37. Defendant violated §1692e:
 - a. As the Letter it is open to more than one reasonable interpretation, at least one of which is inaccurate.
 - b. By making a false and misleading representation in violation of §1692e(10).
- 38. By reason thereof, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for judgment that Defendant's conduct violated Section 1692e et seq. of the FDCPA, actual damages, statutory damages, costs and attorneys' fees.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

39. Pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff hereby requests a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Streets Kinney, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, demands judgment from Defendant Capital Accounts, LLC as follows:

- 1. Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action and certifying Plaintiff as Class representative, and Antranig Garibian, Esq. as Class Counsel;
 - Awarding Plaintiff and the Class statutory damages;
 - 3. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class actual damages;
- 4. Awarding Plaintiff costs of this Action, including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses;
 - 5. Awarding pre-judgment interest and post-judgment interest; and
- 6. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: March 17, 2020

GARIBIAN LAW OFFICES, P.C.

By: Antranig Garibian, Esq.

PA Bar No. 94538 1800 JFK Blvd., Suite 300

Philadelphia, PA 19103

Phone: (215) 326-9179 ag@garibianlaw.com
Attorneys For Plaintiff

EXHIBIT A

PO Box 140065 Nashvalle, IN 1211

106.56



866 884 \$459 (phone) * 200 396 3317 (fax)



15300-26A Kinney Sirects Date: 03/20/2019

Account:

Creduor Jay Warding DUS

Balance Sulphia Sprift for Silling

Sulfate in trill titler

Dear Kinney Streets:

We are pleased to offer the above listed satisfy-in-full offer on behalf of our client, Jay Wardius DDS. This offer is good for 10 days from the date of this letter. We are not obligated to renew this offer.

By clearing up this definquent obligation, we will request that the 3 national credit bureaus update the tradeline associated with your account to reflect this payment activity.

***If payment arrangements are necessary, you may reach us toll free at 866.854.5359 or explore options online at www.capitalbillnay.com**

This communication is an attempt to collect a debt by a debt collector. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Pay by phone at 866.854.5359

Direct all payments to Capital Accounts

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION RETURN BOTTOM PORTION WHEN PAYING BY MAIL

| Casa | | MasterCaud | | AMEX | | Discover | |

Card Holder Name:

Carl Holda Smalter

CRITICE ARD NO.

propagate should be

EXPRAINMENTALE

Account Number :

Balance: \$979.60 - Satisfy for: \$783.68

Kinney Streets

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Capital Accounts PO Bos LIMÓS

Mushville TN 37214-0065